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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/056,102	01/23/2002	Bassanio Law	2705-220	9173
20575	7590	05/18/2006		
MARGER JOHNSON & MCCOLLOM, P.C. 210 SW MORRISON STREET, SUITE 400 PORTLAND, OR 97204			EXAMINER HSU, ALPUS	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2616	

DATE MAILED: 05/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/056,102		LAW ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Alpus H. Hsu		2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-12, 15-18, 21-24 and 27-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13, 14, 19, 20, 25 and 26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/23/02, 2/10/03</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 2-12, 15-18, 21-24, 27-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by BENASH et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,084,892 (cited by the applicant), hereinafter referred as BENASH.

Referring to claim 2, BENASH discloses a dial access system, comprising: multiple network access servers (NAS1 – NASn); and a primary interconnect (LATA/MINI HUB) configurable to establish multiple parallel communication links (26) with the network access servers, the multiple parallel links enabling parallel information transfer between multiple combinations of the multiple network access servers at the same time.

Referring to claim 3, BENASH discloses that the primary interconnect includes multiple parallel switching circuits configured to connect multiple pairs of the network access servers (see column 14, lines 7-14).

Referring to claim 4, BENASH discloses that the primary interconnect includes at least one port coupled to a routing engine (22), the primary interconnect connecting different ones of the network access servers to the routing engine while in parallel connecting together combinations of other network access servers.

Referring to claim 5, BENASH discloses a buffer (48) for storing packets transferred over the communication links.

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Referring to claim 6, BENASH discloses that the multiple network access servers include dial up ports for receiving dial-up calls and secondary ports coupled to the primary interconnect (column 10, lines 15-24).

Referring to claim 7, BENASH discloses that the primary interconnect includes multiple Local Area Network (LAN) interfaces (12) coupled to the network access servers.

Referring to claim 8, BENASH discloses a secondary interconnect (LATA/MINI HUB) configured to establish multiple parallel communication links with the network access servers.

Referring to claims 9 and 11, BENASH discloses a method for connecting network processing devices together, comprising: coupling the network processing devices together through a primary interconnect and a secondary interconnect; establishing multiple parallel connections in the primary interconnect between different pairs of the network processing devices; and transferring information between the different pairs of network processing devices through the multiple parallel connections established by the primary interconnect (see column 14, lines 7-26).

Referring to claim 10, BENASH discloses the step of establishing at least one of the parallel connections between one of the network processing devices and a routing engine and passing information between different pairs of the network processing devices while another one of the network processing devices in parallel transfers information with the routing engine (see column 14, lines 35-45).

Referring to claim 12, BENASH discloses the steps of: monitoring call activity data for the network processing devices; storing the monitored call activity data; and configuring the

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primary interconnect according to the stored call activity data (see column 10, line 57 to column 11, line 18).

Referring to claims 15-18, 21-24, see same rejections as applied to claims 9-12, respectively.

Referring to claim 27, BENASH discloses an interconnect device (LATA/MINI HUB), comprising: an interface (12) including multiple ports for establishing independent communication links with multiple network processing devices (NAS1 – NASn); and circuitry (26) configurable to establish multiple parallel connections between the communication links established with the network processing devices, the multiple parallel connections enabling parallel information transfer between the network processing devices.

Referring to claims 28-31, see same rejections as applied to claims 3-5 and 7, respectively.

3. Claims 13, 14, 19, 20, 25 and 26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Worsley et al., White et al., Partridge et al., and Benash et al. '631 are cited to show the feature of data communication between communication devices utilizing multiple ports and parallel links for data transferring similar to the claimed invention.

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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alpus H. Hsu whose telephone number is (571)272-3146. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (5:30-3:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on (571)272-3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AHH



Alpus H. Hsu
Primary Examiner
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